692 had been established in Fukien Province.[4] It was reported that in the Northern Special District of Kiangsu Province there were 22 county People's tribunals and 59 ch'ü tribunals.[5]

693 The political character of the tribunal can be detected by the composition of the adjudication committee, consisting of a president, a deputy, and several members half of whom were appointed by the People's government and half "elected" by the People's representatives drawn from the public security agencies, the Peasant's Association, and other mass organizations. In most cases, the county head and the ch'ü head were concurrently the presents of their respective tribunals.

692 695 The tribunal employed mass-trial and on-the-spot judgment as their main technique in adjudication. When cases were heard, the judges bombarded the masses with propaganda. The masses were sufficiently agitated to denounce those whom the Party had previously singled out for prosecution. After denunciations were made, judgment was passed by the masses and sentence rendered at the instigation of the adjudication committee controlled by the Party. Mass trials usually resorted to intimidation and violence. To obtain

4. Liberation Daily, April 4, 1951, p. 6; for their activities in the region, ibid., January 8, 1951, p. 1.

5. Ibid., April 7, 1951, p. 5.

692 695 (d) the conduct of "mobile trials"; (e) the use of People's assessors, which, unlike the Western jury system, include representatives from various People's organizations; (f) the use of "comrade trial meetings" for cases involving ideology and labor discipline among Party members and workers in factories, offices, and enterprises; and (g) other methods, such as oral inquiries, on-the-spot investigations, the people's reception rooms, and mediation committees.

693 692 3. The Third Stage: (1953-1955). With the gradual introduction of Communist concepts and teachings into the People's courts in the East China Region, new judicial personnel were trained. As a result of the second session of the National Judicial Conference held in September 1953, a directive was issued calling for the training in each region of 200-500 judicial workers.[13] Those who joined the courts during the Judicial Reform Campaign were sent to schools for further training; a reported 205 schools for judicial personnel[14] were in existence in 1952. Students of law and political science were also encouraged to join.

692 Effort was also made to strengthen judicial authority at lower levels and to establish special courts in industrial and mining organizations. As of July 1955, according to Shih-Liang, reporting at the Second Session of the National People's Conference, 3,795 circuit courts;[15] and 157,966 mediation committees had been established at the lowest level; these 3,795 circuit courts were

13. People's Daily, Sept. 10, 1953, p. 1.
14. Liberation Daily, Nov. 10, 1952, p. 3.
15. People's Daily, July 30, 1955, p. 6.